for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for National Textile Corporation (NTC), 67 unviable and chronically sick mills have been closed under Industrial Disputes (I.D.) Act and 55,455 employees have gone for retirement under Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS). In Maharashtra State, 20 unviable mills have been closed and 17,471 employees have gone under MVRS.

(b) and (c) Government/NTC have identified 18 NTC mills for modernization through Joint Venture Route. The proposal for Joint Venture has been approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and Group of Ministers (GOM) as a part of Revival Scheme. NTC is in the process of entering into Joint Venture with private entrepreneurs for modernization and running of some of these mills.

Fibre policy for cotton and manmade fibre

1202. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government propose to formulate comprehensive fibre policy for cotton and manmade fibre with a view to boost the textile and garment industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when the policy will be framed;

(d) whether there is huge deficiency of skilled manpower in the textile industry; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) An Action Plan for the growth of the Textiles and Garments was placed before the High Level Committee on Manufacturing (HLCM) for consideration and decision recently. It was decided to form an Expert Group by the Empowered Sub Committee (ESC) of the HLCM for the preparation of a long term Comprehensive Fibre Policy (Natural & Man-made) for steady availability of fibre.

(d) and (e) Considering the projected demand of 4 million trained manpower in the garment industry over the next 4-5 years, Ministry of Textiles has prepared a Scheme of Neighbourhood Apparel and Textiles Training Institutes for Job Assurance (NATIJA). The Scheme, which is presently under consideration of the Government, has been formulated for establishing a network of employment-linked training facilities in basic textiles and garment manufacturing technology.

Status of jute industry in the country

1203. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that jute industry in the country is in very bad shape and it is dying;

(b) whether it is not a fact that this industry needs more attention from Government for its survival; and

(c) if so, what are the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) While the jute industry is not in a bad shape, yet, the Central Government in order to increase use of Jute, which is an eco-friendly product and in the interest of persons engaged in cultivation and production of jute products:

(i) Has announced National Jute Policy, 2005 which resolves that "jute industry will receive a fresh impetus in all respects".

(ii) Launched Jute Technology Mission (JTM) this year to address all the issues relating to jute sector.

(iii) Ordered 100% compulsory Packaging for food grains and sugar in jute bags during jute year 2007-08 (July-June), under the provisions of Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987.

Proposal to shift Handloom Institute at Bargarh, Orissa

1204. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was proposed to open a handloom institute at Bargarh in Orissa;

(b) whether it is now proposed to shift this institute to some other State;

(c) if so, the details with reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the action plan of the Centre to maintain status-quo to control resentment among the weavers of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes Sir, The Government proposed to set up a new Indian Institute of Handloom Technology at Bargarh (Orissa) under Central Sector.

(b) No Sir,

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Revival of NTC mills

1205. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to revive 18 NTC mills in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating those that are proposed to be revived in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 18 mills have been identified by National Textile Corporation (NTC) for modernization through Joint Venture Route. List of these 18